

Application No. 10/667,095  
Reply to Office Action dated May 16, 2006

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of this application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 20, 22 and 23 were rejected as being unpatentable over Stephens (USP 2,631,046) in view of Anderson (USP 2,142,547). Claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over Stephens in view of Anderson and Tobin (USP 5,129,609). Claims 8 and 13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Stephens in view of Anderson and Schirer (USP 6,155,325). Claims 10, 11, 26, 27 and 29 were rejected as being unpatentable over Stephens in view of Anderson and Wright (US 2002/0072598). Claim 15 was rejected as being unpatentable over Stephens in view of Anderson and Gardner (USP 5,755,949). Claims 16 and 18 were rejected as being unpatentable over Stephens in view of Anderson and Hanna (USP 4,531,564).

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed on the grounds that the cited prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest the features now set forth in claims 1, 27 and 29.

Claims 1, 27 and 29 are amended to include the feature of the front planar layer having a portion on each panel which is substantially flat such that when the panels are not folded about the vertically extending fold lines, a flat surface is provided for the display of objects across all of the panels. As can be deduced from Fig. 6 and the description thereof in the

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specification, when the panels are not folded about fold lines 38, the front planar layer 24b will define a flat surface on which objects can be displayed.

Claims 1, 27 and 29 are also amended to include the feature of claim 13 (now canceled). Thus, claims 1, 27 and 29 recite that the rear planar layer has at least one horizontally extending separation line to separate the sheet into vertical sections and enable the vertical sections to pivot about a horizontal axis and a fold line opposite each horizontally extending separation line.

The cited prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest a display board including all of the features set forth in claims 1, 27 and 29.

Stephens shows an advertising display with a central panel 15 which is divided into two subpanels 16 and provided with a weakened portion 19 therebetween, i.e., the weakened portion 19 is not part of the central panel 15. Weakened portion 19 appears to include several crimps which precludes it from having a flat front surface. It is therefore respectfully submitted that weakened portion 19 does not constitute a spine panel as in the present claimed invention since it does not provide a flat surface which joins with other panels to form a larger flat surface for the display of objects.

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Stephens also lacks horizontally extending separation and fold lines and parallel ribs extending between two layers of material.

Tobin shows a flexible trash bag support with a flat back and foldable side members. The trash bag support of Tobin does not include horizontally extending separation and fold lines.

Anderson shows a window display made of a sheet of corrugated material which is cut to have various interconnected panels. The window display of Anderson does not include a spine panel to which two center panels are pivotally connected and horizontally extending separation and fold lines.

Schirer shows a display board with horizontal perforations 18a, 18b, 18c. Schirer does not disclose providing the material as two layers with parallel ribs therebetween and forming both a separation line in a rear one of the layers and a fold line in a front one of the layers.

The other secondary references, Wright, Gardner and Hanna, do not disclose the features set forth in claims 1, 27 and 29 and therefore cannot be combined with Stephens and Anderson to render the embodiments of the invention set forth in claims 1, 27 and 29 obvious.

In view of the changes to independent claims 1, 27 and 29, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 27 and 29 are patentable over the prior art of record.

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Claims 2-5, 7-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 22, 23 and 26, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, should also be patentable over the cited prior art for the same reasons set forth above and because the cited prior art does not disclose features of these claims.

In view of the arguments set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 29 under 35 USC 103(a) have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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